

SENATE RESOLUTION 56

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator Roscoe Dixon, Jr., of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Roscoe Dixon, Jr., of Memphis, who served his fellow citizens as a member of the Tennessee State Senate during the 99<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup>, 102<sup>nd</sup>, 103<sup>rd</sup>, and 104<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies and as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives during the 93<sup>rd</sup>, 94<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup>, 96<sup>th</sup>, 97<sup>th</sup>, and 98<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, born on September 20, 1949, in Gilmore, Arkansas, Roscoe Dixon, Jr., was the son of Roscoe, Sr., and Virgie Dixon and was a graduate of Hamilton High School and Memphis State University; and

WHEREAS, a proud military veteran, Senator Roscoe Dixon served with the United States Army for two years and the Tennessee Army National Guard for sixteen years, attaining the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, a community leader and businessman, Senator Dixon was the executive director of the Black Business Association and freely gave of his time and talents to various civic, community, and charitable organizations, including the Memphis Health Center, Old Hickory Hill Civic Club, Raineshaven Civic Club, Florida Street Civic Club, Associated Catholic Charities, and Whitehaven Southwest Mental Health Center; and

WHEREAS, a champion for the cause of his fellow man, Roscoe Dixon engaged in many efforts to help people achieve equality, fairness, and prosperity, including Operation PUSH, NAACP, and the Urban League; and

WHEREAS, after offering himself for public service, Roscoe Dixon was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1982 to serve the 87<sup>th</sup> House District and won election to the State Senate in 1994 to serve the 33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the State Capitol, Senator Dixon rendered sterling service as chairman of the House General Welfare Committee and as a member of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee, the Senate Education Committee, the Senate Government Operations Committee, the House Commerce Committee, the House Education Committee, the House State and Local Government Committee, the House Labor and Consumer Affairs Committee, and the House Calendar and Rules Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon was deeply devoted to his family, and he enjoyed the loving support and companionship of his beloved wife of thirty-nine years, Gloria Dobbins Dixon, whom he met at a political social gathering and married at St. Peter Baptist Church on August 29, 1981; and

WHEREAS, he will be mourned but fondly remembered by his stepfather, Willie (Stella) Moore; his mother-in-law, Hazel Dobbins; his sisters, Catherine and Sandra (Craig); his brothers, Ricky (Judy), Bobby, and Danny; his sisters-in-law, Dorothy (Robert), Thelma (Vaughn), and Cheryl; and a host of extended family members and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Roscoe Dixon leaves behind an indelible legacy of compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Senator Roscoe Dixon, Jr., and reflect fondly upon his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Senator Dixon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.